



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

31 July 2008

Excellency,

As you know, Climate Change has been the flagship issue of the sixty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly. Beyond negotiations, I would like to inform you that the United Nations also seeks to contribute to fighting climate change in a very pragmatic way. To this effect, the Secretary-General has launched a very concrete initiative to optimize the energy consumption of the United Nations Headquarters during the next month.

This initiative, entitled "Cool UN", is aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of the UN Headquarters by using air conditioning devices to a lower extent, both on weekdays and over the weekends, as you can read from his letter herewith attached.

I personally believe that this pragmatic approach is not only immediately beneficial to the challenge we face, but that it will also encourage, on a longer term, climate friendly behaviours from people working both at and with the United Nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Srgjan Kerim".

Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

28 July 2008

Dear Mr. President,

As you are well aware, the summer is getting very hot. Inside our offices, the air conditioners are working at full power, consuming a lot of energy, and producing related greenhouse gas emissions.

I have, therefore, decided to take this opportunity to promote practical action within United Nations headquarters that will result in reduced emissions and increased staff awareness as well as that of the United Nations Missions in New York about climate change issues.

I am announcing a “Cool UN” for the month of August during which the United Nations Building Management will turn up thermostats from 72 to 77° F in our offices and from 70 to 75° F in the conference rooms. During the weekends, the air conditioning systems will be switched off completely. During this same period, I am announcing a more relaxed dress code on the premises, encouraging staff and delegations to wear lighter clothing.

This I believe can serve as an example of some simple steps we can take to lead by example in the global fight against climate change.

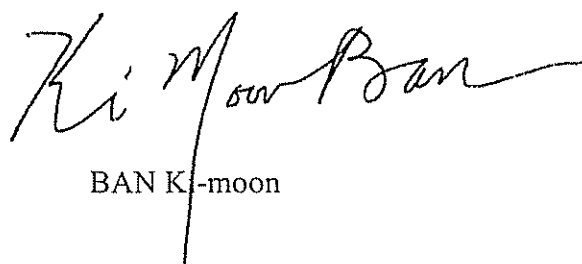
For now, the “Cool UN” will be a trial, lasting the month of August. Depending on the experience, I plan to extend it, and also to apply a similar, but opposite initiative in the winter, allowing us to turn down the thermostats by five degrees Fahrenheit.

In light of your strong and pro-active role in convening the General Assembly debates on climate change during the past several months, I would like to invite you to support this campaign by bringing it to the attention of Member States and encouraging them to follow the guidelines of the campaign that I will soon announce.

His Excellency  
Mr. Srgjan Kerim  
President of the General Assembly  
New York

I am confident that your support as the President of the General Assembly can make an important contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the "Cool UN" campaign, which is expected not only to save energy and result in reduced emissions, but also to raise the profile of the climate change challenge and increase public awareness at this critical juncture when the international community needs to take urgent actions to respond to the dangerous climate change.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right. Below the signature, the name "BAN Ki-moon" is printed in a simple, sans-serif font. The vertical line of the signature extends down through the printed name.

BAN Ki-moon